

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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AREA ADJACENT TO REFUGE IN N.C. CLOSE TO MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

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A recent Presidential Proclamation has closed to migratory-bird hunting an area in Pamlico Sound adjacent to the Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, which lies off the coast of North Carolina. This newly designated closed area includes shallows in the sound between the refuge and the mainland.

Large numbers of diving ducks, Canada geese, other waterfowl, and shore birds congregate each winter at Pea Island. The shallows, which support large beds of eel grass, are a favorite feeding ground for migratory birds that gather on the nearby refuge.

Closing this area assures the hosts of wild visitors freedom from molestation, which is vital to successful administration of a wintering ground.

"Pea Island lies on the eastern migration routes", Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, which administers the area, pointed out. "Closing this area of shallows adjacent to the refuge should increase its value to the migratory birds that winter here as well as to all visiting species."

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The Pea Island Refuge is about 5,850 acres. The closed area raises the total to about 38,000 acres.

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